

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reporting tool for reporting innovation data, comprising:
a database operable to store innovation data, the innovation data comprising
information about one or more innovation capabilities of an entity; and
5 a processor coupled to the database and operable to:
retrieve the innovation data;
process the innovation data according to at least one of a plurality of
metrics, the plurality of metrics representing one or more innovation goals
corresponding to the entity;
10 determine a user role; and
generate a report for the entity according to the user role, the report
comprising the processed innovation data.

2. The reporting tool of Claim 1, the processor further operable to retrieve
15 the innovation data by:
accessing at least one of a plurality of data sources using a directory, the
directory indicating the location of at least a portion of the innovation data;
retrieving the at least a portion of the innovation data; and
updating the database with the at least a portion of the innovation data.

3. The reporting tool of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of metrics
comprises at least one of a budget allocated for innovation, a number of submitted
ideas, a number of patent applications, a number of patents issued, a number of
acquired trademarks, and a licensing revenue.

4. The reporting tool of Claim 1, the processor further operable to process the innovation data according to the at least one of the plurality of metrics by:

identifying the at least one metric associated with an innovation program of the entity;

5 associating a weight with each of the at least one metric; and

determining a status of the innovation program according to the at least one weight.

10 5. The reporting tool of Claim 1, the processor further operable to generate the report for the entity according to the user role by generating a web-based display that illustrates at least some of the innovation data.

6. The reporting tool of Claim 1, wherein the user role is associated with a level of access to the innovation data.

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7. A method for reporting innovation data, comprising:
retrieving innovation data, the innovation data comprising information about
one or more innovation capabilities of an entity;
processing the innovation data according to at least one of a plurality of
metrics, the plurality of metrics representing one or more innovation goals
corresponding to the entity;
determining a user role; and
generating a report for the entity according to the user role, the report
comprising the processed innovation data.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein retrieving the innovation data
comprises:
accessing at least one of a plurality of data sources using a directory, the
directory indicating the location of at least a portion of the innovation data;
retrieving the at least a portion of the innovation data; and
updating the database with the at least a portion of the innovation data.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the plurality of metrics comprises at
least one of a budget allocated for innovation, a number of submitted ideas, a number
of patent applications, a number of patents issued, a number of acquired trademarks,
and a licensing revenue.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein processing the innovation data
according to the at least one of the plurality of metrics comprises:
identifying the at least one metric associated with an innovation program of
the entity;
associating a weight with each of the at least one metric; and
determining a status of the innovation program according to the at least one
weight.

11. The method of Claim 7, wherein generating the report for the entity according to the user role comprises generating a web-based display that illustrates at least some of the innovation data.

5 12. The method of Claim 7, wherein the user role is associated with a level of access to the innovation data.

13. Software for reporting innovation data, the software embodied in a computer readable medium and operable to:

retrieve innovation data, the innovation data comprising information about one or more innovation capabilities of an entity;

5 process the innovation data according to at least one of a plurality of metrics, the plurality of metrics representing one or more innovation goals corresponding to the entity;

determine a user role; and

10 generate a report for the entity according to the user role, the report comprising the processed innovation data.

14. The software of Claim 13, further operable to retrieve the innovation data by:

15 accessing at least one of a plurality of data sources using a directory, the directory indicating the location of at least a portion of the innovation data;

retrieving the at least a portion of the innovation data; and

updating the database with the at least a portion of the innovation data.

15 20 15. The software of Claim 13, wherein the plurality of metrics comprises at least one of a budget allocated for innovation, a number of submitted ideas, a number of patent applications, a number of patents issued, a number of acquired trademarks, and a licensing revenue.

25 16. The software of Claim 13, further operable to process the innovation data according to the at least one of the plurality of metrics by:

identifying the at least one metric associated with an innovation program of the entity;

associating a weight with each of the at least one metric; and

30 determining a status of the innovation program according to the at least one weight.

17. The software of Claim 13, further operable to generate the report for the entity according to the user role by generating a web-based display that illustrates at least some of the innovation data.

5 18. The software of Claim 13, wherein the user role is associated with a level of access to the innovation data.

19. A reporting tool for reporting innovation data, comprising:
- means for retrieving innovation data, the innovation data comprising information about innovation capabilities of an entity;
 - means for regularly the innovation data;
 - 5 means for processing the innovation data according to at least one of a plurality of metrics, the plurality of metrics representing innovation goals corresponding to the entity;
 - means for determining a user role; and
 - means for generating a report for the entity according to the user role, the
 - 10 report comprising the processed innovation data.

20. A reporting tool for reporting innovation data, comprising:
a database operable to store innovation data, the innovation data comprising
information about one or more innovation capabilities of an entity; and
a processor coupled to the database and operable to:

5 retrieve the innovation data by:

accessing at least one of a plurality of data sources using a
directory, the directory indicating the location of at least a portion of the innovation
data;

10 retrieving the at least a portion of the innovation data; and
updating the database with the at least a portion of the
innovation data;

process the innovation data according to at least one of a plurality of
metrics, the plurality of metrics representing one or more innovation goals
corresponding to the entity, the plurality of metrics comprising at least one of a
15 budget allocated for innovation, a number of submitted ideas, a number of patent
applications, a number of patents issued, a number of acquired trademarks, and a
licensing revenue, the innovation data processed according to the at least one of the
plurality of metrics by:

20 identifying the at least one metric associated with an innovation
program of the entity;

associating a weight with each of the at least one metric; and
determining a status of the innovation program according to the
at least one weight;

25 determine a user role, the user role associated with a level of access to
the innovation data; and

generate a report for the entity according to the user role, the report
comprising the processed innovation data, the report generated for the entity
according to the user role by generating a web-based display that illustrates at least
some of the innovation data.

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